

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1131
By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Denise Hughes Ray
upon her selection as Teacher of the Year for
Unicoi County Middle Schools.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Denise Hughes Ray is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ray has recently been selected as Teacher of the Year for Unicoi County in the Middle School category, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a positive influence on countless young lives; and

WHEREAS, Denise Brown, Director of Schools, announced the selections of the award-winning teachers on April 12th, 2004; the district candidates were nominated by their peers, which is a prestigious honor in itself; and

WHEREAS, serving with acumen and alacrity as a seventh-grade world geography teacher at Unicoi County Middle School, Denise Hughes Ray was selected as the Unicoi County Teacher of the Year to represent the Middle School category; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Unicoi County High School and East Tennessee State University, Ms. Ray instituted the first countywide physical education program in 1986; at that time, she taught physical education classes at seven schools to nearly 1,000 students; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ray is an extremely talented, dedicated, and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Denise Hughes Ray truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, truly epitomizing the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, Denise Hughes Ray should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Ms. Denise Hughes Ray on being chosen Teacher of the Year for Unicoi County in the Middle School Category, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.